



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 September 1967



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LATE ITEM

South Vietnam

Preliminary press accounts state that senior military officers today announced the dismissal of four generals and one province chief. This looks like the beginning of a long-awaited purge aimed at weeding out [] officers considered corrupt or inefficient.

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DAILY BRIEF
16 September 1967

1. South Vietnam

We keep getting reports of bitterness between Thieu and Ky--despite protestations from high ranking Vietnamese that the differences between the two men are being exaggerated. [REDACTED]

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2. Egypt

Cairo's official news agency reports the suicide Thursday of former Field Marshal Amir, Nasir's erstwhile alter ego who was recently arrested for plotting against the regime. This presumably will increase the resentment of disgruntled military elements who have viewed Amir as their leader, and Nasir as his persecutor.

3. Soviet Union

We expect at least one Soviet space operation in the near future.

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[REDACTED]
We believe these will participate in a test of an unmanned Soyuz vehicle. [REDACTED]

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Other ships continue to move into the Indian Ocean for what will probably be a circumlunar flight.

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4. Italy

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5. Poland

Unrest in the Polish armed forces over the regime's efforts to counter pro-Israeli sentiment has eased somewhat.

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The basic question of Poland's automatic commitment to Soviet policies remains topical

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6. Nonproliferation Treaty

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The foreign minister has said publicly that Brazil would accept limitation on military nuclear development only within a treaty obligating all countries of the world.

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7. Communist China

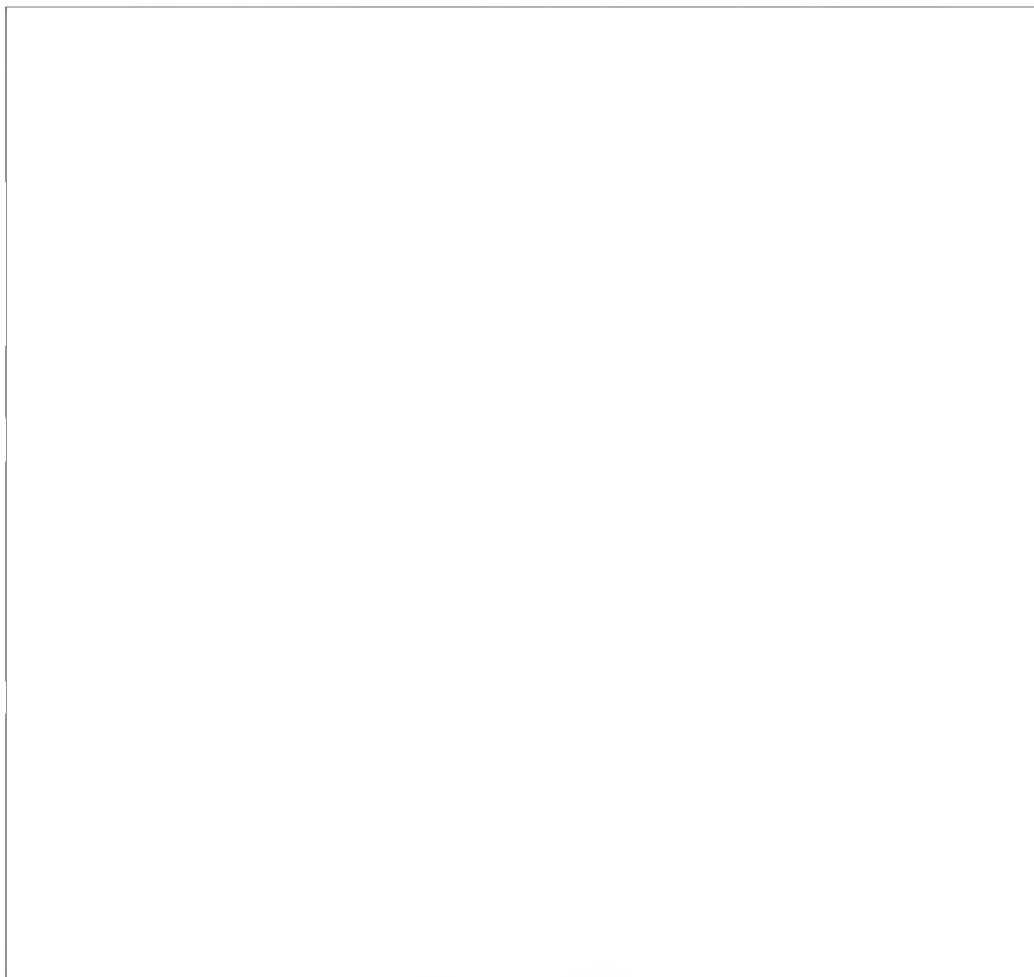
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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

16 September 1967

Hanoi's Religious Problems: The regime continues to have problems with uncooperative elements among its diverse religious communities, especially the Catholics. Some concern that these problems may be affecting efforts to mobilize the population behind the war was expressed in the August issue of the Communist party journal Hoc Tap. The article reviews the history of Vietnam's religious groups and concludes that great progress has been made in reconciling their religious convictions with the demands of the revolution, but that "reactionaries" and "counterrevolutionary" elements still exist and are able to sow discord harmful to the cause of national unity.

The author accuses "US imperialists" of "taking advantage of religion" for espionage and psychological warfare activities, and implicitly acknowledges this as fertile ground for such efforts. Although claiming that counterrevolutionary influence among followers of religion has "weakened markedly" in recent years, the article notes that there are some "vulnerable spots."

The article does not suggest that religious divisions in North Vietnam are significantly greater now than in the past, or that Hanoi is seriously concerned with the issues themselves. Hanoi readily acknowledges its problem with religious minorities as one which can only be overcome with time and persuasion. The Hoc Tap article also cautions overzealous cadres against letting measures designed to overcome religious problems end up aggravating them.

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US Bombings Reported Affecting Rice Production:

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese were complaining that US bombings were affecting their capability to harvest two annual rice crops. The North Vietnamese also claimed that they were required to increase their rice imports to offset a growing deficit.

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[redacted] vegetables were in short supply but [redacted] the shortage of clothing material was apparently hurting morale more than the tight food situation.

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Hospitals Reorganized:

[redacted] with the exception of hospitals in Haiphong and Hanoi, hospitals in North Vietnam have been reorganized into small clinics and mobile units servicing rural areas. The reorganization was reported to have lowered the standard of medical treatment but had brought medical aid to areas never before visited by medical teams.

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